

12 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
FROM: Chief, Geographic Research
SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of December 1959

A. Research and Technical Support Activity

1. The Geography Division completed and disseminated one Geographic Intelligence Review (GR 59-4)*; four Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR 59-20, China: Provincial Atlas of Communist Administrative Units; GR 59-23, [REDACTED] GR 59-24, Recommended Unconventional Warfare Areas in [REDACTED] and GR L-60-1, Cuba, Part I); one contribution to the NIS program (Map and Chart Appraisal Component of the Chapter I Annual, NIS 22, Rumania); eight geographic memoranda in the G/E and G/I series; and seven support jobs in the G/S series.

2. The Cartography Division accepted requests for 160 maps and charts and completed 137. The total workload on the books at the end of December was 577 jobs (versus 556 for November); this is the highest number of jobs on record for any one month in the history of the Division. Outstanding among the maps and charts completed during December was the publication of the China Atlas; this atlas is on public sale by the Technical Services Division of the Department of Commerce. Other noteworthy production included a wall map of the USSR, showing terrain, transportation, and other cultural information; twelve province maps of Laos for DD/P; and three maps for inclusion in GR 59-23, [REDACTED]

3. The Map Library Division forwarded 23,757 items to requesters in response to 1,802 requests. The recent agreement between CIA and the Map Division, Library of Congress, was put into effect during the month, resulting in the distribution of 218 CIA published unclassified maps to the Library of Congress. Map requests during 1959 (15,225) were approximately the same as during 1958 (15,350); however, there was an increase of 40% in requests for atlases, gazetteers, and other publications. More requests were received in 1959 from the Military and other U.S. Government agencies, while total map requests from CIA decreased.

*Actual dissemination expected early January.

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B. Planning and Development

1. New procedures that will govern the preparation of the aerial photography subsection of the NIS Chapter IX were approved at a meeting of the Chapter IX Subcommittee held on 2 December. Matters related to the forecasts for FY 1962 and FY 1963 were also discussed, with the conclusion that the Subcommittee members should review these forecasts individually and report their findings at a meeting scheduled for 7 January 1960.

2. Efforts to procure [redacted] project were unsuccessful, despite requests through [redacted] ACSI, and Air Force channels and a reduction of price by the company. Consequently, other Air Force photography at various scales is being used. The request to ACSI for assistance from DEI/AMS was accepted in principle only due to their own program on the area; we may place spot requests and will have access to their work in draft form.

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3. The U.S. Antarctic Projects Office has requested a periodic briefing or submission of summaries on foreign (i.e., non-U.S.) activities in Antarctica to assist in planning of U.S. programs and to provide information when requested to members of Congress and the general public.

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4. The final shipment of reports and associated documents of the [redacted] Research Foundation project was received, checked out, and forwarded to the Office of Logistics, along with a disposition memorandum and receipts. Only the unclassified reports were retained by [redacted]

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5. Geographic Area personnel met with Messrs. Vogel, Schoelig, and Bella of the Army Map Service to discuss procurement of Survey of India maps. [redacted] is being asked to stress procurement of maps of India for the areas bordering on China.

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6. Because of a steady increase in requests for maps on the Far East area, the Cartography Division has found it necessary to transfer one slot from the USSR-Satellites to the Far East Compilation Branch. [redacted] after completing his training, will be assigned to this slot.

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7. [redacted] has been assigned to represent the Geography Division in preparing materials for the OCR Minicard Testing in March.

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8. A project request from ERA to produce a telecommunications atlas on the Sino-Soviet Bloc was approved during the month. Publication of this atlas -- which will involve the production of about 45 maps -- is scheduled for approximately June 1960.

9. Conferences with I/GM may result in support being provided by the Europe Branch, D/GG, in the preparation of overlays for use in the evaluation of guided missile intelligence.

C. Significant Outside Contacts and Activities

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1. [REDACTED] GG/X, attended the final plenary session of the Antarctic Conference at which the Antarctic Treaty was signed. At the personal invitation of Ambassador Phleger, they attended the private luncheon given for all the Delegates at Blair House.

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2. [REDACTED] accompanied the DD/I to a meeting of the RSC Planning Board at which a briefing was provided on the Antarctic Treaty and the Bureau of the Budget letter on U.S. organizational responsibilities for operations in Antarctica was reviewed.

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3. Chief/G, Chief, D/GG, and [REDACTED] GG/X, participated in a conference with ACSI personnel concerning the problem of Army support on the Caribbean project. Subsequent conferences have been held with D/CL, OO and AMS personnel on other details of the project.

4. The Southeast Asia Discussion Group sponsored the showing of films on 15 December. Two meetings of the Africa Roundtable were held, both of which showed considerable increase in attendance and participation by DD/F personnel.

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A trip to New York for further conferences will be made by the Chief, D/GG, in the near future.

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7. [REDACTED] D/GL, met with officers of ACSI and OCE to discuss [REDACTED] recent trip to Europe, collection priorities in the U.S. Army, Europe, and photographic techniques for high-quality map reproduction under field conditions.

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D. Miscellaneous

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1. [REDACTED] tour of duty with the Domestic Procurement Section, D/GL, was completed on 11 December; he has returned to D/GG and has been assigned to the Caribbean project.

2. The administrative atlas of Communist China, disseminated during the month, appears to have been generally well received. It is understood that there has been a brisk demand for the copies being sold through the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, and a re-run may be in order ultimately.

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Distribution:

- 1 - AD/RR
- 1 - St/A
- 1 - St/I
- 1 - St/P
- 1 - Ch/E
- 4 - D/GG
- 3 - D/GC
- 3 - D/GL
- 2 - Ch/G

CCR:Ch/G:JAB:jmc/4797 (11 Jan 1960)

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